

A/AC.172/1993/CRP.14/Add.8
20 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
Substantive session
Agenda item 12*

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Imre Karbuczky (Hungary)

Addendum

IV. MEETINGS OF ORGANS AND PROGRAMMES NOT FUNDED FROM THE
REGULAR BUDGET OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Introduction and overview

1. In paragraph 19 of its resolution 46/190 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Committee on Conferences to continue to monitor the meetings and services provided to organs and programmes not funded from the regular budget and to consider the impact of their scheduling on the calendar of conferences and meetings.

2. In paragraph 9 of its resolution 47/202 A of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly invited the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to continue to evaluate their meeting and documentation requirements, with a view to rationalizing them, and to report on progress thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Committee on Conferences.

3. At its 345th and 348th meetings, on 17 and 18 May 1993, the Committee on Conferences considered the matter on the basis of two reports (A/AC.172/1993/CRP.1 and A/AC.172/1993/CRP.2).

* A/AC.172/150/Add.1.

Discussion

4. The view was expressed that the governing bodies of UNDP and UNICEF should be encouraged to continue their efforts with a view to reducing the number of meetings and the volume of documentation.

5. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding the electronic transfer of documentation of the Executive Board of UNICEF. It was suggested that the equal treatment of all official languages should be borne in mind in the implementation of such a procedure, that the six-week rule for availability of pre-session documentation should be respected and that the quality of conference services should not be impaired.

6. In reply to a query concerning additional staff to meet the requirements of the Governing Council of UNDP, the representative of UNDP indicated that some reimbursement was made by UNDP to the United Nations Secretariat in respect of overtime and contractual translation costs. The representative of the Secretariat noted that it was usual to hire additional staff when the two subsidiary bodies met, as their meetings were scheduled at particularly busy times of the year for the Organization as a whole.

7. In reply to another query, the Secretariat noted that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of each body, summary records were prepared in the working languages only. The view was expressed that due respect should be paid to the equal treatment of all official languages of the United Nations in the summary records of UNDP and UNICEF. It was also suggested that the two governing bodies could dispense with summary records.

8. The Secretariat also replied to a query regarding 1993 statistics for the Executive Board of UNICEF.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee on Conferences took note of the efforts undertaken by the Governing Council of UNDP and the Executive Board of UNICEF to rationalize their meeting and documentation requirements.

10. It decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should invite the two subsidiary bodies, within the context of the restructuring exercise in the economic and social sectors, to increase their efforts to rationalize their meeting and documentation requirements with a view to reducing them to the maximum extent possible.

11. The Committee considered that the Governing Council of UNDP and the Executive Board of UNICEF could possibly dispense with summary records. Therefore, it decided to recommend that the General Assembly should invite those bodies to consider doing so. Otherwise, those records should be prepared with due respect for the equal treatment of all official languages of the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/207 C of 11 December 1987.

12. The Committee, taking account of the decision of the Executive Board of UNICEF that the Executive Director should undertake a technical and financial analysis of the electronic transfer of Executive Board documentation, wished to draw the attention of the Executive Board to the fact that that decision should be implemented taking into account the need to ensure the equal treatment of all official languages, pursuant to resolution 42/207 C, the need to comply with the six-week rule for availability of pre-session documentation and the need to ensure that the quality of conference services is not impaired.

13. The Committee further decided to continue to monitor the conference services provided to organs and programmes not funded from the regular budget of the United Nations.
